# PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RESEARCH DIVISION PROJECT ANNUAL JOB REPORT

PROJECT CODE NO.: 06210

TITLE: White-tailed Deer Research/Management

PROJECT JOB NO.: 21001

TITLE: Estimating County Deer Population Sizes & Growth Rates

PERIOD COVERED: 1 July 2000 through 30 June 2001

COOPERATING AGENCIES: None
WORK LOCATION(S): Statewide

PREPARED BY: George Kelly, Bret Wallingford, and Christopher Rosenberry

**DATE:** 13 March 2002

Abstract: We used data on deer reproduction, sex and age of harvested deer, license numbers of successful hunters, and reported harvests to estimate 2000 and 2001 deer populations by management unit. Wildlife Conservation Officers (WCOs) also conducted winter deer mortality surveys along preselected routes in their respective districts. Six hundred and eight does were used to determine conception and fawning dates. The average reproductive rate was 0.99 embryos/doe with the median conception date of November 14. The median projected birth date was May 30. Average points and spread of 3,184 sets of antlers measured in the 2000 season ranged from 5-8 points and 10-17 inch spread for 1.5-year-olds and 3.5+-year-olds, respectively. Our 2000-01 winter deer density of 39 deer/mi<sup>2</sup> of forest land was the same as in 1999-00. The 2000-01 winter deer loss index of 0.21 deer/mile was well below previously recorded losses. We projected a preseason deer population of 1.504 million for 2001. Changes approved for the 2001-02 deer seasons include: a 12-day concurrent antlered and antlerless rifle season for all hunters; an expanded, 7-day antlerless muzzleloader season in October; a 3-day antlerless rifle season in October for junior, senior, disabled, and military license holders; antlerless licenses that are unsold after all hunters have an opportunity to purchase one will be sold, up to 2 per hunter; the "private land only" restriction on unsold licenses was removed; field possession regulations were liberalized to allow a hunter to harvest another deer after tagging the first deer harvested; and crossbows will be legal during the regular firearms season in Special Regulations Areas. The goal for 2001 is to reduce the statewide deer herd by about 5 percent. Population analyses indicate that about 328,000 antlerless deer need to be harvested to reduce the statewide deer population 5 percent. We used information from Michigan, Wisconsin, and from the 1999 fall flintlock season to estimate the potential impacts of the new regulations. We recommend expanding the opportunities for antlerless deer hunting by adding a county-specific, 3-day October gun hunt that begins on a Thursday and ends on a Saturday. We also recommend a statewide antler point restriction that would allow some 1.5-year-old males to escape into older age classes. For antlerless licenses, we recommend that hunters be permitted to purchase and use the entire antlerless allocation without regard to individual limits; and that flintlock hunters be included in the antlerless license system.

# OBJECTIVE

To determine deer population sizes and harvest recommendations by management unit.

#### PROCEDURES

To obtain data on reproduction by age class, WCOs examined female deer killed by various causes from 1 February through 31 May 2000. They recorded location (county, township, and proposed deer management unit), date killed, cause of death, and number and sex of embryos for each doe on a form attached to a deer jaw envelope. They measured embryos so that we could determine conception and projected birth dates and removed 1 side of the lower jaw from each deer for age determination. Jaws were forwarded to wildlife biologists who made the age assignments in July 2000. Personnel in the Bureau of Automated Technology Services (BATS) processed the reproductive data and provided summary reports for the state and each county.

During the 2000 antlered and antlerless rifle seasons, 32 data collection teams examined deer in assigned areas. Each team spent 2 days during the October muzzleloader season and at least 3 days during each of the rifle (antlered and antlerless) seasons collecting ages, sexes, counties of harvest, and hunting license numbers from harvested deer found in butcher shops and other locations. Deer teams determined deer ages using tooth wear and replacement (Severinghaus 1949). Data collection teams also recorded points and measured spreads and beam diameters of antlers to determine antler characteristics by year class.

BATS personnel inputted and processed data from 2000-01 deer harvest report cards submitted by hunters and the biological collections by the deer teams. BATS also provided a PC download for population analysis. For each county the download included: the reported antlered harvest, the reported antlerless harvest, reporting rates, age and sex breakdowns of the harvest, reproductive data, combined reported regular three-day antlerless rifle and antlerless archery harvests, and the total antlerless rifle and archery harvests. We used the download data in DEERPOP and PROJECT software (Shope pers. commun.) to estimate 2000 and project 2001 county deer populations. Besides estimating populations, we used PROJECT to develop antlerless allocation recommendations for 2001.

In late March and early April, WCOs conducted winter deer mortality surveys in their assigned districts. Each WCO walked three 1.5-mile routes along stream bottoms to locate possible winter losses. They recorded the sex and age of all dead deer found and submitted the data to us for analysis. We converted the data to a deer/mile index and compared it with previous winter loss indexes to decide if we needed to adjust any projected county estimates for excessive winter losses.

## **FINDINGS**

WCOs examined 1,075 females during the 2000 prefawning season. Six hundred forty-nine were pregnant and 608 were usable for determining conception dates. Twenty-eight percent of the fawns and 90 percent of the adults were pregnant. Pregnant fawns averaged 1.12 embryos/doe and pregnant adults 1.78 embryos/doe. The average reproductive rates for pregnant and barren fawns and adults were 0.31 and 1.60 embryos/doe, respectively. The average reproductive rate for all females was 0.99 embryos/doe. The median conception date for all does was November 14. Ninety percent of all breeding occurred between October 16 and December 16, with the median date fawns bred as November 28, 17 days later than adult does (Figure 1). The median projected birth date for all fetuses examined was May 30 (Figure 2).

Data collection teams measured 3,184 sets of antlers during the 2000 antlered deer season. Statewide, 1.5-year-old bucks averaged 5 points and a 10-inch spread, 2.5-year-old bucks averaged 7 points and a 15-inch spread, and 3.5 and older bucks averaged 8 points and a 17-inch spread (Table 1). One and one-half year old bucks from poor habitat averaged 4 points and a 9-inch spread while those from excellent habitat averaged 6 points and an 11-inch spread.

Statewide, WCOs found 0.21 dead deer/mile on winter survey routes in 2000. In most counties, winter losses were well below the high losses recorded in 1978 (Table 2).

Hunters harvested 504,600 deer in the 2000-01 deer seasons. The antlered harvest was 203,221, up from 194,368 in 1999-00. The antlerless harvest was 301,379, up from 184,224 in 1999-00. The increased antlerless harvest resulted from increased opportunities for hunters and excellent weather conditions. Changes that provided increased opportunities were: the 3-day rifle antlerless season started on a Saturday concurrently with the last day of the antlered season; junior, senior, disabled, and military license holders could take antlerless deer during the entire 2-week antlered season; and a 3-day October antlerless muzzleloader season. More antlerless licenses were issued, primarily because licenses that were unsold after all hunters had an opportunity to obtain one were sold with the restriction that they be used on private property or on public lands with an approved deer management plan.

We estimated a 2000-01 statewide winter density of 39 deer/mi $^2$  of forested habitat. This density was about the same as the 1999-00 winter density (Table 3). The statewide winter deer population was 86% higher than the agency goal of 21 deer/mi $^2$  and over 1.0 million white-tailed deer again overwintered in Pennsylvania in 2000-01.

We projected a preseason state population of 1.504 million deer (58 deer/mi² of forest land) for the 2001 fall hunting season. This figure does not include counties with special regulations. Projected county densities (excluding counties with special regulations) ranged from lows of 26, 29, 34, 37, and 37 deer/mi² of forest land in the counties of Cameron, Clinton, Elk, Carbon, and Monroe, respectively, to highs of 129, 125, 125, 117, and 108 deer/mi² of forest land in the counties of Lancaster, Washington, York, Berks, and Lehigh, respectively. The lowest projected rates of population increase from postseason 1999 to preseason 2000 were 31% in Elk County, 36% in Lycoming County, and 37% in Cameron, Snyder, and Sullivan counties. The highest projected rates of population increase were 59-62% in Beaver, Butler, Mercer, Washington, Armstrong, Franklin, and Lancaster counties (Table 4).

Dr. Gary Alt and the deer management team are in the second year of an aggressive campaign to remedy deer population imbalances. The Deer Management Section has focused on educating the public and deer management decision-makers and starting new deer research in Pennsylvania. Management goals are to balance deer with their habitat and enhance the breeding ecology of the deer herd.

The objective of regulatory changes for the 2000-01 season was to stop the deer population growth that had occurred in each of the 2 previous years. This was accomplished with the increased harvest in 2000 and the population was stabilized at a statewide post-season density of 39 deer/mi $^2$  of forested land (23 deer/mi $^2$  of total land). This is still 86% above the statewide goal of 21 deer/mi $^2$  of forested land (12 deer/mi $^2$  of total land).

The projected 2001 preseason population is approximately 1.5 million, about the same as last year. The objective of regulatory changes for this season is to reduce the statewide deer herd by about 5%. In addition, regulations adopted for 2001 are designed to increase the harvest of antlerless deer, decrease the harvest of antlered deer, and provide a more natural breeding ecology by removing additional antlerless deer before the rut. Reducing the population and removing antlerless deer in October will also reduce pressure on habitat.

Recommendations proposed and accepted by the Commissioners at the January meeting and approved in April were: a 12-day concurrent antlered and antlerless rifle season for all hunters; an expanded, 7-day antlerless muzzleloader season in October; a 3-day antlerless rifle season in October for junior, senior, disabled, and military license holders; antlerless licenses that are unsold after all hunters have had an opportunity to purchase one will be sold, up to two per hunter; the "private land only" restriction on unsold licenses has been removed;

field possession regulations have been liberalized to allow a hunter to harvest another deer after tagging the first deer harvested; and crossbows will be legal during the regular firearms season in Special Regulations Areas.

Based on increased efficiencies expected from the new seasons and bag limits, the unit-specific antlerless license allocation for 2001 is 692,500 (744,900 in 2000). The total allocation is 780,250 when the 6 Special Regulations Area counties are included, compared to 830,650 in 2000.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

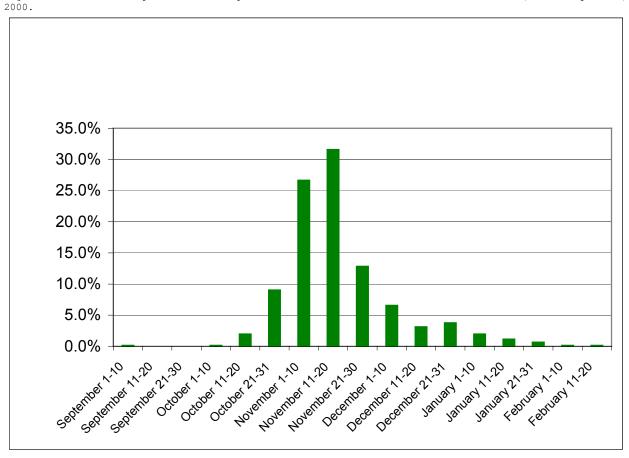
Expanded opportunities in 2001 for antlerless deer should increase the efficiency of the antlerless licenses. With an increasing deer population and a declining hunter base to harvest deer, increasing the efficiency of antlerless licenses is essential to attaining harvest objectives. To further increase the efficiency of antlerless licenses, we recommend adding a county specific, 3-day October gun hunt for antlerless deer that begins on a Thursday and ends on a Saturday. We also recommend that hunters be permitted to purchase and use all unsold licenses and that muzzleloader hunters be included in the antlerless license system.

We recommend that statewide antler restrictions of 3 or 4 points to a side be adopted. This change would protect a portion of our 1.5 year-old bucks, increasing the number of bucks living at least 1 more year, and resulting in an improved buck-to-doe ratio and larger numbers of older bucks to compete for breeding rights.

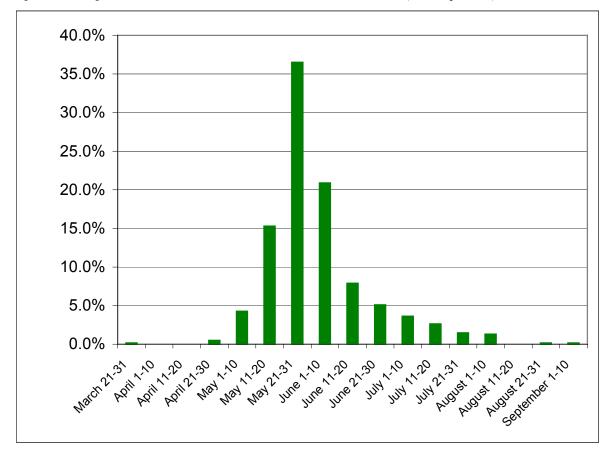
#### LITERATURE CITED

Severinghaus, C. W. 1949. Tooth development and wear as criteria of age in white-tailed deer. J. Wildl. Manage. 13:195-216.

Figure 1. Conception time periods based on 608 roadkilled does, Pennsylvania,







	Yea	rling	2.5+ ye	ear-old		
County	Points	Spread (in)	Points Spread (in)			
Adams	4.47	10.10	6.22	13.72		
Allegheny	8.33	12.83	11.50	19.63		
Armstrong	5.65	10.64	9.75	17.38		
eaver	6.04	11.65	8.50	16.71		
Bedford	4.34	8.70	7.43	15.40		
Berks	5.70	11.02	7.15	16.11		
Blair	3.91	7.95	8.78	16.83		
Bradford	5.21	9.90	8.07	16.79		
Bucks	4.94	9.72	7.74	16.76		
Butler	6.80	11.95	10.00	15.50		
Cambria	5.31	10.29	7.50	16.00		
Cameron	3.27	8.15	7.35	14.81		
Carbon	4.13	8.64	7.62	15.56		
Centre	3.82	8.33	6.59	13.79		
Chester	5.64	11.36	8.16	17.48		
Clarion	5.11	10.02	7.33	16.08		
Clearfield	4.59	9.51	6.86	14.38		
Clinton	3.73	8.23	6.63	13.44		
Columbia	5.75	10.94	8.11	16.26		
Crawford	5.53	10.93	7.44	16.24		
Cumberland	4.85	10.57	8.60	16.65		
Dauphin	5.32	11.52	8.46	16.63		
Delaware	7.33	12.83	8.33	18.42		
Elk	3.00	8.67	7.09	15.15		
Erie	5.58	10.72	8.05	17.04		
Fayette	6.07	10.57	8.33	14.29		
Forest	3.36	8.18	7.00	13.47		
Franklin	3.60	8.13	8.00	11.00		
Fulton	3.57	8.50	9.00	15.13		
Greene	4.80	8.78	8.00	13.81		
Huntingdon	4.10	8.15	6.73	13.24		
Indiana	5.38	11.19	5.80	14.56		
Jefferson	5.80	11.00	6.75	16.42		
Juniata	5.13	11.24	7.27	13.66		
Lackawanna	4.46	8.90	8.63	16.13		
Lancaster	5.87	11.38	8.20	17.47		
Lawrence	8.00	16.75				
Lebanon	5.00	10.96	9.25	15.38		
Lehigh	6.40	12.29	8.44	17.58		
Luzerne	5.18	10.40	7.62	16.20		
Lycoming	4.56	9.01	7.13	14.34		
McKean	3.21	7.83	7.07	15.08		
Mercer	4.00	10.38	9.50	18.63		
Mifflin	4.50	8.64	6.67	12.50		
Monroe	4.44	9.12	6.38	14.40		
Montgomery	6.33	12.64	7.75	17.10		
Montgomery	7.50	12.38	11.50	23.00		
Northampton	6.00	12.00	9.00	16.63		
Northampton Northhumberland	5.89	10.25	8.50	15.25		
Northnumberiand Perry			7.08			
-	5.29	10.62		14.77		
Pike	3.25	7.70	6.64	13.71		
Potter	4.17	9.03	6.91	14.53		
Schuylkill	5.43	10.53	7.07	14.14		
Snyder	4.91	10.21	6.00	17.25		
Somerset	5.64	10.77	8.08	15.54		
Sullivan	4.47	8.95	7.67	16.64		
Susquehanna	4.76	9.47	7.77	16.36		
Tioga	4.20	8.39	7.62	15.81		
Union	5.50	10.11	5.83	12.54		
Venango	5.65	10.25	7.83	15.36		
Warren	4.27	8.73	7.35	14.28		
Washington	5.80	10.25	7.63	15.81		
Wayne	3.77	8.14	7.54	15.05		
Westmoreland	6.54	11.55	9.00	16.60		
Wyoming	4.44	9.78	7.00	16.13		
York	5.23	10.79	7.70	16.13		

Table 2. Dead deer found on winter survey routes in 2001 and dead deer found/mile surveyed in 2001 and 1978 in Pennsylvania.

1978 in Pennsylvania.	<u> </u>	2001	Dead de	eer/mile
County	Miles	Dead deer	2001	1978
Adams	9.50	2	0.21	0.33
Allegheny	9.50	10	1.05	0.15
Armstrong	8.70	1	0.11	0.11
Beaver	7.25	9	1.24	0.00
Bedford	14.80	9	0.61	1.35
Berks	15.10	3 6	0.20	0.00
Blair Bradford	14.00 20.50	8	0.43 0.39	4.00 0.81
Bucks	9.50	2	0.21	0.01
Butler	0.00	0	0.00	0.09
Cambria	10.20	1	0.10	2.18
Cameron	4.50	4	0.89	13.60
Carbon	9.50	0	0.00	0.13
Centre	15.50	3	0.19	3.35
Chester	9.50	2	0.21	0.00
Clarion	10.00	0	0.00	1.88
Clearfield	14.50	5	0.34	5.17
Clinton	11.00	0	0.00	0.87
Columbia	11.75	4	0.34	0.83
Crawford	27.50	3	0.11	0.33
Cumberland	9.50	0	0.00	0.55
Dauphin	11.75	2	0.17	1.67
Delaware	1.50	0	0.00	
Elk	9.65	2	0.21	1.86
Erie	15.70	2	0.13	0.08
Fayette	12.00	5	0.42	0.00
Forest	11.50	0	0.00	0.42
Franklin	11.10	1	0.09	0.29
Fulton	4.50	1	0.22	0.75
Greene	9.00	2	0.22	0.83
Huntingdon	15.20	8	0.53	0.95
Indiana Jefferson	11.00	2	0.00	2.16
Juniata	11.10 5.80	0	0.18	1.00 2.67
Lackawanna	12.20	0	0.00	2.24
Lancaster	17.90	0	0.00	0.00
Lawrence	9.90	0	0.00	0.33
Lebanon	6.00	0	0.00	0.00
Lehigh	4.70	0	0.00	0.00
Luzerne	15.30	7	0.46	0.78
Lycoming	25.40	4	0.16	0.70
McKean	15.80	6	0.38	1.23
Mercer	9.50	0	0.00	0.00
Mifflin	6.25	0	0.00	0.77
Monroe	10.00	0	0.00	4.10
Montgomery	10.00	0	0.00	0.14
Montour	4.50	0	0.00	0.00
Northampton	5.90	0	0.00	
Northhumberland	4.50	0	0.00	1.67
Perry	9.00	1	0.11	1.01
Philadelphia	4.70	5 0	1.06	V 22
Pike Potter	9.00 21.50	5	0.00 0.23	4.33 3.69
Schuylkill	9.00	3	0.23	0.74
Snyder	5.55	0	0.00	0.63
Somerset	18.75	3	0.16	3.93
Sullivan	4.50	0	0.00	0.75
Susquehanna	9.00	6	0.67	3.97
Tioga	23.50	2	0.09	4.17
Union	8.50	0	0.00	1.09
Venango	5.00	2	0.40	0.38
Warren	19.50	2	0.10	2.10
Washington	5.75	2	0.35	0.29
Wayne	12.20	2	0.16	16.42
Westmoreland	15.00	2	0.13	3.03
Wyoming	4.50	0	0.00	0.00
York	23.00	1	0.04	
2001 Totals	737.90	153	0.21	
1978 Totals	686.05	1,330		1.94

Table 3. County forest statistics, winter deer density goals, and estimated winter density trends from the winter of 1996-97 through the winter of 2000-01 for Pennsylvania. Special regulations counties are excluded.

Country	excluded.		Mi <sup>2</sup> of forested land <sup>a</sup>				Winter deer density estimates					
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Bedford	-											
Berks												
Blair												
Bradford 59 127 269 280 676 22 31 37 42 45 44 Buther 50 75 110 212 397 23 42 42 47 56 58 Cambria 64 52 116 271 439 21 28 29 33 32 32 38 Cambria 64 52 116 271 439 21 28 29 33 32 32 38 Cambria 64 52 116 271 439 21 28 29 33 32 32 21 29 29 26 Carbon 75 67 114 105 286 23 32 21 27 29 29 26 Carbon 75 67 114 105 286 23 32 21 27 29 31 35 Cardino 61 91 85 194 370 26 41 42 41 45 39 Clarion 61 91 85 194 370 26 41 42 41 45 39 Clarion 61 91 85 194 370 26 41 42 41 45 39 Clarion 61 91 85 194 370 26 41 42 41 45 39 Clarion 61 91 86 194 370 26 41 81 81 81 81 81 21 21 Clarifield 74 145 305 398 848 21 37 33 37 38 42 Clinton 87 33 275 464 772 16 18 18 18 18 18 21 21 Climbria 32 29 102 126 257 19 34 39 46 54 53 38 Crawford 48 42 138 285 485 18 35 33 39 46 44 Cumberland 35 17 88 790 194 17 27 34 37 49 46 Each 20 194 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18												
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Dauphin         50         51         85         129         265         23         22         20         27         32         26           ETIk         91         64         137         552         753         21         23         21         24         26         26           Erie         47         100         49         224         373         29         30         30         36         40         38           Forest         93         50         43         304         397         23         29         32         39         43         37           Franklin         44         77         40         219         336         27         45         34         34         38         40           Fulton         69         34         91         177         302         20         31         30         30         35         29           Greene         56         44         111         169         324         20         45         50         59         69         67           Huntingdon         75         94         210         353         657         21         36												
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Leheigh	Lawrence	42	24	43	84	151	22	21	23	28	29	31
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Mercer         39         35         62         166         263         22         35         37         40         46         47           Mifflin         72         35         56         205         296         22         27         29         32         31         28           Monroe         76         38         178         245         461         18         25         17         22         25         26           Montour         27         9         0         27         36         30         57         55         72         72         68           Northampton         34         29         18         80         127         27         39         47         51         64         57           Northumberland         50         45         78         105         228         23         26         23         26         29         33           Perry         64         10         92         253         355         17         38         30         37         42         36           Pike         82         42         149         260         451         19         27	Lycoming	77	85	310	559	954	19	27	23	24	29	28
Mifflin         72         35         56         205         296         22         27         29         32         31         28           Monroe         76         38         178         245         461         18         25         17         22         25         26           Montour         27         9         0         27         36         30         57         55         72         72         68           Morthampton         34         29         18         80         127         27         39         47         51         64         57           Northampton         34         29         18         80         127         27         39         47         51         64         57           Northampton         34         29         18         80         127         27         39         47         51         64         57           Northampton         34         29         18         30         37         42         36           Perry         64         10         92         253         355         17         38         30         37         42         36	McKean	81	90	237	485	812	20	26	25	30	35	30
Monroe         76         38         178         245         461         18         25         17         22         25         26           Monthour         27         9         0         27         36         30         57         55         72         72         68           Northampton         34         29         18         80         127         27         39         47         51         64         57           Northumberland         50         45         78         105         228         23         26         23         26         29         33           Perry         64         10         92         253         355         17         38         30         37         42         36           Pike         82         42         149         260         451         19         27         20         22         28         30           Potter         86         73         202         652         927         20         23         24         31         36         34           Schuylkill         71         110         295         146         551         20         31 <td>Mercer</td> <td>39</td> <td>35</td> <td>62</td> <td>166</td> <td>263</td> <td>22</td> <td>35</td> <td>37</td> <td>40</td> <td>46</td> <td>47</td>	Mercer	39	35	62	166	263	22	35	37	40	46	47
Montour         27         9         0         27         36         30         57         55         72         72         68           Northampton         34         29         18         80         127         27         39         47         51         64         57           Northumberland         50         45         78         105         228         23         26         23         26         29         33           Perry         64         10         92         253         355         17         38         30         37         42         36           Pike         82         42         149         260         451         19         27         20         22         28         30           Potter         86         73         202         652         927         20         23         24         31         36         34           Schuylkill         71         110         295         146         551         20         31         34         37         38         36           Snyder         51         18         76         75         169         18         30	Mifflin	72	35	56	205	296	22	27	29	32	31	28
Northampton         34         29         18         80         127         27         39         47         51         64         57           Northumberland         50         45         78         105         228         23         26         23         26         29         33           Perry         64         10         92         253         355         17         38         30         37         42         36           Pike         82         42         149         260         451         19         27         20         22         28         30           Potter         86         73         202         652         927         20         23         24         31         36         34           Schuylkill         71         110         295         146         551         20         31         34         37         38         36           Snyder         51         18         76         75         169         18         30         31         33         37         35           Summerset         64         157         238         294         689         24         2	Monroe	76	38	178	245	461	18	25	17	22	25	26
Northumberland         50         45         78         105         228         23         26         23         26         29         33           Perry         64         10         92         253         355         17         38         30         37         42         36           Pike         82         42         149         260         451         19         27         20         22         28         30           Potter         86         73         202         652         927         20         23         24         31         36         34           Schuylkill         71         110         295         146         551         20         31         34         37         38         36           Snyder         51         18         76         75         169         18         30         31         33         37         35           Somerset         64         157         238         294         689         24         29         29         29         33         35           Sullivan         86         18         139         230         387         16         23<	Montour	27	9	0	27	36	30	57	55	72	72	68
Perry         64         10         92         253         355         17         38         30         37         42         36           Pike         82         42         149         260         451         19         27         20         22         28         30           Potter         86         73         202         652         927         20         23         24         31         36         34           Schuylkill         71         110         295         146         551         20         31         34         37         38         36           Snyder         51         18         76         75         169         18         30         31         33         37         35           Somerset         64         157         238         294         689         24         29         29         29         33         35           Sullivan         86         18         139         230         387         16         23         20         29         29         33         35           Susquehanna         65         114         134         283         531         25 </td <td>Northampton</td> <td>34</td> <td>29</td> <td>18</td> <td>80</td> <td>127</td> <td>27</td> <td>39</td> <td>47</td> <td>51</td> <td>64</td> <td>57</td>	Northampton	34	29	18	80	127	27	39	47	51	64	57
Pike         82         42         149         260         451         19         27         20         22         28         30           Potter         86         73         202         652         927         20         23         24         31         36         34           Schuylkill         71         110         295         146         551         20         31         34         37         38         36           Snyder         51         18         76         75         169         18         30         31         33         37         35           Somerset         64         157         238         294         689         24         29         29         29         33         35           Sullivan         86         18         139         230         387         16         23         20         27         26         30           Susquehanna         65         114         134         283         531         25         45         34         37         36         41           Tioga         66         103         305         352         760         19         31	Northumberland	50	45	78	105	228	23	26	23	26	29	33
Potter         86         73         202         652         927         20         23         24         31         36         34           Schuylkill         71         110         295         146         551         20         31         34         37         38         36           Snyder         51         18         76         75         169         18         30         31         33         37         35           Somerset         64         157         238         294         689         24         29         29         29         33         35           Sullivan         86         18         139         230         387         16         23         20         27         26         30           Susquehanna         65         114         134         283         531         25         45         34         37         36         41           Tioga         66         103         305         352         760         19         31         30         38         40         38           Union         68         6         79         129         214         16         27<	Perry	64	10	92	253	355	17	38	30		42	36
Schuylkill         71         110         295         146         551         20         31         34         37         38         36           Snyder         51         18         76         75         169         18         30         31         33         37         35           Somerset         64         157         238         294         689         24         29         29         29         29         33         35           Sullivan         86         18         139         230         387         16         23         20         27         26         30           Susquehanna         65         114         134         283         531         25         45         34         37         36         41           Tioga         66         103         305         352         760         19         31         30         38         40         38           Union         68         6         79         129         214         16         27         27         26         31         28           Venango         72         26         111         348         485         19	Pike											
Snyder         51         18         76         75         169         18         30         31         33         37         35           Somerset         64         157         238         294         689         24         29         29         29         33         35           Sullivan         86         18         139         230         387         16         23         20         27         26         30           Susquehanna         65         114         134         283         531         25         45         34         37         36         41           Tioga         66         103         305         352         760         19         31         30         38         40         38           Union         68         6         79         129         214         16         27         27         26         31         28           Venango         72         26         111         348         485         19         36         25         34         40         41           Warren         79         62         109         527         698         21         30	Potter	86	73	202	652	927	20	23	24	31	36	34
Somerset         64         157         238         294         689         24         29         29         29         33         35           Sullivan         86         18         139         230         387         16         23         20         27         26         30           Susquehanna         65         114         134         283         531         25         45         34         37         36         41           Tioga         66         103         305         352         760         19         31         30         38         40         38           Union         68         6         79         129         214         16         27         27         26         31         28           Venango         72         26         111         348         485         19         36         25         34         40         41           Warren         79         62         109         527         698         21         30         30         31         34         33           Wayne         66         54         154         272         480         20         39 <td>Schuylkill</td> <td></td> <td>110</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>551</td> <td>20</td> <td></td> <td>34</td> <td>37</td> <td>38</td> <td></td>	Schuylkill		110			551	20		34	37	38	
Sullivan       86       18       139       230       387       16       23       20       27       26       30         Susquehanna       65       114       134       283       531       25       45       34       37       36       41         Tioga       66       103       305       352       760       19       31       30       38       40       38         Union       68       6       79       129       214       16       27       27       26       31       28         Venango       72       26       111       348       485       19       36       25       34       40       41         Warren       79       62       109       527       698       21       30       30       31       34       33         Washington       50       132       113       182       427       28       50       49       67       74       79         Wayne       66       54       154       272       480       20       39       30       38       45       48         Westmoreland       51       137       98 </td <td>Snyder</td> <td></td>	Snyder											
Susquehanna         65         114         134         283         531         25         45         34         37         36         41           Tioga         66         103         305         352         760         19         31         30         38         40         38           Union         68         6         79         129         214         16         27         27         26         31         28           Venango         72         26         111         348         485         19         36         25         34         40         41           Warren         79         62         109         527         698         21         30         30         31         34         33           Washington         50         132         113         182         427         28         50         49         67         74         79           Wasyne         66         54         154         272         480         20         39         30         38         45         48           Westmoreland         51         137         98         283         518         28 <td< td=""><td>Somerset</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></td<>	Somerset											
Tioga 66 103 305 352 760 19 31 30 38 40 38 Union 68 6 79 129 214 16 27 27 26 31 28 Venango 72 26 111 348 485 19 36 25 34 40 41 Warren 79 62 109 527 698 21 30 30 31 34 33 Washington 50 132 113 182 427 28 50 49 67 74 79 Wayne 66 54 154 272 480 20 39 30 38 45 48 52 Westmoreland 51 137 98 283 518 28 40 39 48 48 52 Wyoming 62 47 82 118 247 23 34 31 30 34 39 York 27 9 55 180 244 18 48 51 69 75 80 Statewide Total 59 3,738 7,740 15,051 26,529 21 31 30 34 39 39	Sullivan											
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Venango         72         26         111         348         485         19         36         25         34         40         41           Warren         79         62         109         527         698         21         30         30         31         34         33           Washington         50         132         113         182         427         28         50         49         67         74         79           Wayne         66         54         154         272         480         20         39         30         38         45         48           Westmoreland         51         137         98         283         518         28         40         39         48         48         52           Wyoming         62         47         82         118         247         23         34         31         30         34         39           York         27         9         55         180         244         18         48         51         69         75         80           Statewide Total         59         3,738         7,740         15,051         26,529         21	-											
Warren       79       62       109       527       698       21       30       30       31       34       33         Washington       50       132       113       182       427       28       50       49       67       74       79         Wayne       66       54       154       272       480       20       39       30       38       45       48         Westmoreland       51       137       98       283       518       28       40       39       48       48       52         Wyoming       62       47       82       118       247       23       34       31       30       34       39         York       27       9       55       180       244       18       48       51       69       75       80         Statewide Total       59       3,738       7,740       15,051       26,529       21       31       30       34       39       39												
Washington       50       132       113       182       427       28       50       49       67       74       79         Wayne       66       54       154       272       480       20       39       30       38       45       48         Westmoreland       51       137       98       283       518       28       40       39       48       48       52         Wyoming       62       47       82       118       247       23       34       31       30       34       39         York       27       9       55       180       244       18       48       51       69       75       80         Statewide Total       59       3,738       7,740       15,051       26,529       21       31       30       34       39       39	Venango					485						
Wayne       66       54       154       272       480       20       39       30       38       45       48         Westmoreland       51       137       98       283       518       28       40       39       48       48       52         Wyoming       62       47       82       118       247       23       34       31       30       34       39         York       27       9       55       180       244       18       48       51       69       75       80         Statewide Total       59       3,738       7,740       15,051       26,529       21       31       30       34       39       39												
Westmoreland         51         137         98         283         518         28         40         39         48         48         52           Wyoming         62         47         82         118         247         23         34         31         30         34         39           York         27         9         55         180         244         18         48         51         69         75         80           Statewide Total         59         3,738         7,740         15,051         26,529         21         31         30         34         39         39	-											
Wyoming     62     47     82     118     247     23     34     31     30     34     39       York     27     9     55     180     244     18     48     51     69     75     80       Statewide Total     59     3,738     7,740     15,051     26,529     21     31     30     34     39     39	_											
York         27         9         55         180         244         18         48         51         69         75         80           Statewide Total         59         3,738         7,740         15,051         26,529         21         31         30         34         39         39												
Statewide Total 59 3,738 7,740 15,051 26,529 21 31 30 34 39 39												
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<sup>a</sup>Forest statistics are based on 1989 U.S. Forest Service inventory data for Pennsylvania. <sup>b</sup>Goals are based on 60 deer/mi<sup>2</sup>, 5 deer/mi<sup>2</sup>, and 20 deer/mi<sup>2</sup> for seedling/sapling, pole, and sawtimber stands, respectively. Table 4. County deer population densities ( $deer/mi^2$  of forest land) and projected rates of population increase from postseason 2000 to preseason 2001. Special regulations counties are not included.

increase from po			Special regulations counties are not included.				
	2000 deer d		2001 projected	% population			
	Preseason E	Postseason	preseason density	increase			
Adams	84	57	89	56			
Armstrong	84	51	81	59			
Beaver	77	47	76	62			
Bedford	50	31	45	45			
Berks	112	75	117	56			
Blair	64	43	62	44			
Bradford	68	44	69	57			
Butler	89	58	93	60			
Cambria	55	38	57	50			
Cameron	23	19	26	37			
Carbon	36	26	37	42			
Centre	49	35	49	40			
Clarion	65	39	59	51			
Clearfield	59	42	61	45			
Clinton	27	21	29	38			
Columbia	80	53	82	55			
Crawford	73	44	69				
Cumberland	73	44	72	57 57			
	47	32	48	50			
Dauphin							
Elk	33	26	34	31			
Erie	65	38	60 57	58			
Fayette	55	38		50			
Forest	57	37	54	46			
Franklin	56	40	60	59			
Fulton	48	29	43	48			
Greene	102	67	104	55			
Huntingdon	60	40	57	43			
Indiana	68	45	71	58			
Jefferson	66	44	69	57			
Juniata	44	30	42	40			
Lackawanna	42	33	46	39			
Lancaster	115	81	129	59			
Lawrence	52	31	49	58			
Lebanon	66	43	65	51			
Lehigh	104	69	108	57			
Luzerne	60	46	65	41			
Lycoming	39	28	38	36			
Mckean	43	30	43	43			
Mercer	77	47	75	60			
Mifflin	41	28	39	39			
Monroe	34	26	37	42			
Montour	102	68	106	56			
Northampton	88	57	89	56			
Northumberland	49	33	52	58			
Perry	57	36	53	47			
Pike	40	30	43	43			
Potter	46	34	48	41			
Schuylkill	54	36	54	50			
Snyder	52	35	48	37			
Somerset	51	35	52	49			
Sullivan	40	30	41	37			
Susquehanna	56	41	59	44			
Tioga	55	38	55	45			
Union	43	28	39	39			
Venango	64	41	64	56			
Warren	52	33	51	55			
Washington	114	79	125	58			
Wayne	65	48	67	40			
Westmoreland	81	52	82	58			
Wyoming	55	39	57	46			
York	120	80	125	56			
York Statewide	120 58	80 39	125 58	56 49			